

MR. ROCKHILL AT VICTORIA

The American Commissioner En

He Brings a Copy of the Chinese Protocol for the President—He Talks on the Situation in the Empire—Li Hung Chang Failing.

VICTORIA, B. C., Oct. 16.—W. W. Rockhill, Special Commissioner from the

United States to China, arrived by the steamer Empress of Japan last night, en route from Peking to Washington, to hand a copy of the protocol signed by China and the allies on September 7 to President Roosevelt. Commissioner Rockhill was accompanied by Mrs. Rockhill and Hubbard Taylor Smith, his secretary.

press of Japan at William Head, the Commissioner stated that now that the protocol had been signed, things would rapidly resume their normal state in China. He hoped there would be no further outbreaks in the Empire, but, he said, China was the land of surprises and none could say what was likely to occur there.

The insurrections reported in Kansu, Manchuria and in other districts of late he believes to be nothing more than local disturbances, rioting by malcontents, which occurrences have been unduly magnified into insurrection by the press of the Far East. There were no serious disturbances when he left.

Peking was taken over by the Chinese soon after the protocol was signed and

The withdrawal of the troops of the allies began without delay, and on the 17th of September, after a year and two days' absence, the Chinese troops, 300 in number, entered Peking. The Americans, however, retained the south gate of Peking, and the Japanese held the east gate. No other troops were left in Peking other than the legation guards and the small detachments at Shanhaiwan, Tientsin

The "turning over" of the Chinese capital to Prince Ching was carried out with much ceremony, there being a brilliant spectacle when the keys of the palace were handed over to the Prince at the south gate on September 17. The American and Japanese troops were drawn up at the south gate, while the picturesquely

Chinese dignitaries attended Prince Ching, who was handed the keys of the gate. It was on September 22 that the withdrawal of the foreign troops took place, and then the expeditionary forces evacuated all the points along the route to Shanhaikwan, leaving only the small detachments to guard the stations of the railway. This line from Peking to the coast is controlled by the British.

The Russians complained some time ago of the station at Tientsin being in the concessions, and the friction which at one time assumed a serious stage occurred in consequence, but since then there had been no collisions between the British and other forces. The country is being, as it were, taken over by the commercial interests since the protocol was signed, and a commission has been appointed to

conduct commercial negotiations with China, as provided by the provisions of the protocol. This commission will revise the treaties of commerce and arrange all matters in connection with the opening of the ports to trade and all other business in connection with trade and commerce between the Powers and China. James Lyle Mackey, K. C. D. E., was appointed as the British Commissioner.

Other commissioners are to be appointed by the different Governments. Sheng-tu, who was Commissioner of Telegraphs at Shanghai during the Boxer troubles, has been appointed Commissioner to represent China. Japan has also been asked to send a commissioner.

The Chinese troops were entering the capital before Commissioner Rockhill left and had taken over the work of policing the city. The poorer class of Chinese, the coolies, for instance, have profited greatly as a result of the occupation of Peking by the allies, says Mr. Rockhill.

The poor men have now more money than they ever had, while many of the erstwhile rich Chinese are destitute as a result of the Chinese troubles. The coolies have been given employment by the allied forces in building and other works and have been paid better than ever they were until, as the Commissioner puts it, the rich are becoming poverty stricken, whereas, the common people, who have

One of the works in which many Chinese were engaged has been the rebuilding of the legations. The British Legation has been rebuilt and a heavy wall has been erected around about it surrounded by a deep moat. The wall has embrasures and gun platforms are being built. It will be defensive, said the Commissioner, but not

much better than was the old British Legation defences behind which the Europeans withstood their besiegers, for the high walls of the Chinese capital look down upon it and a special clause exists in the protocol signed on September 7 that this wall around the city shall not be destroyed. Guns mounted on this wall could raze the legation.

All the legation areas have been ex-

ended, said Commissioner Rocknill, the British being increased in area until it is about ten or fifteen times its original size. The British made the largest increases and the Germans and Russians have also made large increases in the territory within their walls, the area taken in by the extension of the grounds of the British Legation being in the Imperial carriage park, the partially de-

Commissioner Rockhill says that he expects to hear shortly of the return of the Chinese Court to Peking. When he left China he was informed that the Emperor and Dowager Empress and retinue would reach Peking by October 6. Since then, he heard, while in Japan, that they had

postponed their return, but he heard on the best authority that there was nothing in the report published that the Court did not intend to return to Peking.

An interesting fact is told by Mr. Rockhill of how a number of Roman Catholic missionaries remained safe at Hsiang-fu, where the Chinese Court was domiciled

Launching of Steamship "Siberia"

Newport News, Va., Saturday, October 19.
Passengers on Norfolk and Washington steamer
leaving Washington, Friday evening, at 6:30
taken from Norfolk to Newport News without
extra charge. Staterooms for round trip may
now be reserved at general ticket offices, Bond
Building, 14th st. and N. Y. ave., 'Phone 2290,
and at wharf, foot 7th st., 'Phone 190.

Flooring, \$1.25. Flooring, \$1.25.
Flooring, \$1.25 and N. C. Pine, one width, at

